

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/659,453
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60663

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A process for signaling ~~signalling~~ cost information in a telecommunications network comprised of a plurality of exchanges, wherein the process comprises:
 - establishing a connection between a subscriber's ~~data~~-terminal and an exchange of the plurality of exchanges,
 - forwarding a tariff request for a to-be-completed telephone call or an on-going telephone call from a call handling function resident in the exchange to an independent a-tariff server, wherein the tariff server is connected to several of the exchanges comprising the telecommunications network and receives tariff requests from the exchanges,
 - receiving a tariff response at the call handling function at the exchange from the tariff server for the requested connection,
 - forwarding the tariff response from the call handling function to a CDR generating function in the exchange,
 - forwarding cost information from the CDR generating function to the cost communication function of the exchange, and
 - communicating the cost information from the cost communication function to the subscriber's ~~data~~-terminal prior to the establishment of the to-be-completed telephone call or during the on-going telephone call.

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2. (*Currently Amended*) The process for signaling ~~signalling~~ cost information according to Claim 1, wherein the tariff server accesses ~~has access to~~ a subscriber database containing current tariff data.

3. (*Currently Amended*) The process for signaling ~~signalling~~ cost information according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the current~~ cost information is updated upon the connection establishment of the to-be-completed telephone call and/or during the existing on-going telephone call.

4. (*Currently Amended*) The process for signaling ~~signalling~~ cost information according to Claim 1, wherein a bill server updates the information stored on ~~of the tariff server is updated with the aid of a bill server.~~

5. (*Currently Amended*) An independent A-tariff server coupled to a plurality of exchanges with connections to an exchange and to a bill server, the independent tariff server comprising having a charging rate function which is connected to a subscriber database and receiving tariff requests from the plurality of exchanges, and, in response to a tariff request that is received from one of the exchanges of the plurality of exchanges the exchange for a to-be-completed telephone call or an on-going telephone call, the charging rate function generates a tariff response that is used to determine the cost information of the to-be-completed telephone call or the on-going telephone call.

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6. (*Currently Amended*) The tariff server according to Claim 5, wherein the bill server updates current cost information that is stored in the subscriber database ~~is adapted to the current cost situation by current data of the bill server.~~

7. (*Currently Amended*) An exchange for signaling ~~signalling~~ cost information in a telecommunications network comprised of a plurality of exchanges, wherein the exchange comprises:

a call handling function that forwards a tariff request to an independent ~~a~~ tariff server coupled to the exchange and to other exchanges in the plurality of exchanges, and the tariff server receives tariff requests from the other exchanges, wherein the call handling function receives the tariff response that is returned from the tariff server in response to the tariff request,

a CDR generating function that receives the tariff response from the call handling function and generates cost information from the tariff response, and

a cost communication function that communicates the cost information from the cost communication function to a subscriber's ~~data~~ terminal.

8. (*Previously Presented*) The exchange according to Claim 7, wherein the CDR generating function updates the cost information upon the establishment of a to-be-completed telephone call.

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9. (*Previously Presented*) The exchange according to Claim 7, wherein the CDR generating function updates the cost information during the pendency of an on-going telephone call.

10. (*New*) The process for signaling cost information according to Claim 1, wherein cost information from the CDR generating function is forwarded to a bill server and a subscriber database resident on the tariff server is updated by the bill server based upon the received cost information.

11. (*New*) The tariff server according to Claim 6, wherein the current cost information is updated based upon cost information received from the charging rate function.

12. (*New*) The exchange according to Claim 7, wherein the CDR generating function forwards cost information to a bill server, which then updates a subscriber database resident on the tariff server with the forwarded cost information.